

WE ARE AN ARMY IN INDIANA

IN Favor Resources video teaching series



INTRODUCTION: **GOD IS MUSTERING AN ARMY FOR WAR**

Isaiah 13:1 A prophecy against Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw: ² Raise a banner on a bare hilltop, shout to them; beckon to them to enter the gates of the nobles. ³ I have commanded those I prepared for battle; I have summoned my warriors to carry out my wrath—those who rejoice in my triumph. ⁴ Listen, a noise on the mountains, like that of a great multitude! Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms, like nations massing together! The LORD Almighty is mustering an army for war. ⁵ They come from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens—the LORD and the weapons of his wrath—to destroy the whole country.

Isaiah 13 is called an “oracle” or “pronouncement” (verse 1), an utterance or prophecy given to a person or a nation. It is sometimes translated as “burden” because it is often threatening, grim, and severe. This particular vision was given to Isaiah, and it concerns God’s judgment on the foreign nation of Babylon. In the next few verses of the prophecy, we see *how God goes about “mustering an army for war.”*

- First, he raises “a banner on a bare hilltop” (verse 2). This is a visible standard, waving on a prominent and spacious hill, where everyone can see it. Military flags were commonly used as a signal to gather the troops at a rallying point.
- By shouting an invitation and waving them in (verse 2), the Lord communicates the need for urgency and haste. For this army, there is no time for delay.
- He beckons them to “enter the gates of the nobles” (verse 2). The soldiers are either welcomed into the city to enroll in the service, or they enter it as conquerors; either way, the doors to the city are not closed to these warriors—by invitation or by force, the gates swing open.
- God himself commands and summons those he has “prepared for battle” (verse 3)—the ones he has consecrated or sanctified in a special way for a specific task. The Hebrew phrase means “set apart.”
- He calls them his “warriors” (NIV), or his “mighty ones” (KJV; verse 3). The Hebrew word *gib-bor* is used of valiant men, champions, and heroes. They are the best of the best, and they are ready to fight for God.
- These mighty warriors are *already* rejoicing in God’s triumph (verse 3). They are confident in the victory and give God all the glory and honor.
- The response to God’s call is overwhelming. He describes the sound of this mighty army assembling as “a noise on the mountains, like that of a great multitude, an uproar among the kingdoms, like nations massing together!” (verse 4) This great, international military force makes the earth tremble.

- God tells us these weapons of his wrath “come from faraway lands” and “from the ends of the heavens” (verse 5). *This army is composed of mighty warriors and powerful heavenly beings!* Human beings and angels are fighting side by side for the Lord. This is Holy War! It is God’s great battle against the forces of evil on earth.

According to one commentator, “The impression the audience would get from this revelation is that *God is going to war with a massive destructive force that is unstoppable.* This means that *victory is sure.*” ^{NAC}

13 The Message on Babylon. Isaiah son of Amoz saw it:

- 2-3 “Run up a flag on an open hill.
Yell loud. Get their attention.
Wave them into formation.
Direct them to the nerve center of power.
I’ve taken charge of my special forces,
called up my crack troops.
They’re bursting with pride and passion
to carry out my angry judgment.”
- 4-5 Thunder rolls off the mountains
like a mob huge and noisy—
Thunder of kingdoms in an uproar,
nations assembling for war.
God-of-the-Angel-Armies is calling
his army into battle formation.
They come from far-off countries,
they pour in across the horizon.
It’s God on the move with the weapons of his wrath,
ready to destroy the whole country.
- 6-8 Wail! God’s Day of Judgment is near—
an avalanche crashing down from the Strong God! ^{Msg}

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